

Sunday, 09/10/2017

The ERT's mobile laboratory, using the TAGA tandem mass spectrometer system, monitored along the perimeter of the neighborhood adjacent to the Valero refinery (Houston). Low level benzene concentrations (less than 1 part per billion by volume (ppbv)) were observed at many locations. The highest benzene, toluene, xylenes concentrations observed were less than 3 ppbv. Mobile monitoring was conducted southeast of the Manchester neighborhood adjacent to other petrochemical industries. The highest concentrations were observed from a car adjacent to the TAGA mobile laboratory on Pasadena Freeway with benzene, toluene, and xylenes/ethylbenzene at 30 ppbv, 50 ppbv, and 70 ppbv, respectively. A smaller plume from the LyondellBasell refinery was observed on Lawndale Street with benzene at 15 ppbv, toluene at 5 ppbv, and xylene at 3 ppbv. Numerous smaller peaks were observed on North Witter Street between the Pasadena Refinery and the Kinder Morgan Refinery with the maximum benzene concentration of 5 ppbv, the maximum toluene concentration of 5 ppbv and the maximum xylenes/ethyl benzene concentration of 15 ppbv. The wind was from the NNE today.